

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 18, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1531

Introduced by Assembly Member Bass

February 22, 2005

An act to add Section 60856.1 to the Education Code, relating to academic assessment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1531, as amended, Bass. ~~Academic assessment.~~ *High school exit examination.*

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to develop a high school exit examination in English language arts and mathematics in accordance with state academic content standards. Existing law requires, commencing with the 2003–04 school year and each school year thereafter, each pupil completing grade 12 to successfully pass the exit examination as a condition of graduation from high school. Existing law requires the board, in consultation with the Superintendent, to study the appropriateness of other criteria by which high school pupils who are regarded as highly proficient but unable to pass the exit examination may demonstrate their competency and receive a high school diploma. ~~Existing law requires the board to forward recommendations to the Legislature concerning any criteria deemed appropriate.~~

~~This bill would require the board to review any criteria deemed appropriate and make recommendations concerning that criteria to the Legislature by an unspecified date in February 2006.~~

This bill would allow school districts to create a performance assessment, as specified, to test proficiency in English language arts

and mathematics and to use the assessment as an alternative to, or in combination with, the high school exit examination. This bill would require school districts that choose to create a performance assessment to develop an assessment plan, as specified. This bill would require the State Department of Education to review, approve, and oversee the implementation of the assessment plans by school districts. This bill would establish the High School Exit Examination Performance Assessment Advisory Panel, consisting of 13 members, to assist the department and perform other specified duties.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 60856.1 is added to the Education~~
2 ~~Code, to read:~~

3 *SECTION 1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to*
4 *encourage the creation and use of performance assessments as*
5 *part of an approach that employs multiple measures to determine*
6 *eligibility for a diploma of graduation from high school.*

7 *(b) Performance assessments should be based on significant*
8 *pupil projects that are embedded in the curriculum for English*
9 *language arts and mathematics and aligned with state academic*
10 *content standards for those subject areas. Performance*
11 *assessments address essential skills and knowledge alleged with*
12 *the expectations of postsecondary institutions and the workplace.*

13 *(c) The purpose of performance assessments is to ensure that*
14 *pupils have basic academic skills and are able to apply, analyze,*
15 *synthesize, and calculate information and communicate*
16 *significant knowledge and understanding.*

17 ~~SEC. 2. Section 60856.1 is added to the Education Code, to~~
18 ~~read:~~

19 ~~60856.1. (a) A school district, charter school, or other local~~
20 ~~educational agency may create, as a component of its graduation~~
21 ~~standards and requirements for high school pupils, a~~
22 ~~performance assessment that is aligned with the state academic~~
23 ~~content standards and allows high school pupils to demonstrate~~
24 ~~a minimum level of proficiency in English language arts and~~
25 ~~mathematics that is at least equal to the proficiency level~~

1 *demonstrated by a passing score on the high school exit*
2 *examination.*

3 *(b) A performance assessment shall do all of the following:*

4 *(1) Be based on state academic content standards for English*
5 *language arts and mathematics.*

6 *(2) Be free of racial, ethnic, or gender bias.*

7 *(3) Provide for a consistent method of assigning scores and*
8 *evaluating performance.*

9 *(4) Assess academic content and skills in which pupils receive*
10 *instruction.*

11 *(5) Include significant pupil projects embedded in the English*
12 *language arts and mathematics curriculum in which pupils*
13 *receive instruction.*

14 *(6) Provide reasonable accommodations to ensure*
15 *appropriateness for English language learners and pupils with*
16 *disabilities.*

17 *(c) (1) Each school district that creates a performance*
18 *assessment shall develop an assessment plan, subject to approval*
19 *by the department, that includes all of the following:*

20 *(A) A description of the high school graduation standards and*
21 *requirements of the school district, including the performance*
22 *assessment and the academic content standards with which it is*
23 *aligned.*

24 *(B) A timetable for pupil completion of the performance*
25 *assessment that allows pupils to begin the assessment no later*
26 *than the beginning of grade 11.*

27 *(C) A description of the manner in which the school district*
28 *will use the performance assessment, the high school exit*
29 *examination, and pupil grades in core academic courses to*
30 *address all of the following:*

31 *(i) Determining whether pupils have achieved proficiency in*
32 *basic academic skills.*

33 *(ii) Identifying pupils who require additional support to*
34 *achieve proficiency in basic academic skills.*

35 *(iii) Providing information to high schools and to the*
36 *community concerning the quality of academic programs of a*
37 *high school.*

38 *(2) A school district that prepares an assessment plan shall*
39 *include all of the following in the school accountability report*

1 card, as specified in Section 33126, for each high school within
2 its jurisdiction:

3 (A) A description of the assessment plan.

4 (B) The annual assessment plan completion rate for each high
5 school, to be determined by dividing the number of pupils in
6 grade 12 who are deemed eligible for graduation under the
7 assessment plan by the total number of pupils in the class year
8 when the class first entered the high school.

9 (d) (1) Notwithstanding Section 60851, a high school pupil
10 who successfully passes either the English language arts or
11 mathematics section of the high school exit examination, but not
12 both sections, is eligible for a diploma of graduation if he or she
13 successfully passes the section for that other subject area in a
14 performance assessment.

15 (2) Notwithstanding Section 60851, a high school pupil who
16 fails to successfully pass both the English language arts and the
17 mathematics sections of the high school exit examination is
18 eligible for a diploma of graduation if he or she successfully
19 passes the sections for both subject areas in a performance
20 assessment.

21 (3) Notwithstanding Section 60851, a high school pupil shall
22 not be denied a diploma of graduation on the basis of his or her
23 results on the high school exit examination unless he or she is
24 given an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in English
25 language arts and mathematics by successfully passing a
26 performance assessment.

27 (4) Each school district that develops an assessment plan shall
28 provide pupils with two or more ways to demonstrate proficiency
29 in English language arts and mathematics.

30 (e) The department shall develop a process for reviewing,
31 approving, and overseeing the implementation of the assessment
32 plans of school districts.

33 (f) The department shall maintain a collection of samples of
34 high-quality performance assessments and make the samples
35 available to school districts.

36 (g) (1) The High School Exit Examination Performance
37 Assessment Advisory Panel is hereby established, consisting of
38 13 members, to be appointed as follows:

39 (A) Six members by the Superintendent, acting jointly with the
40 State Board of Education. The six members shall include one

1 *parent or guardian of a high school pupil, two fully credentialed*
2 *teachers who teach academic content standards and who have*
3 *been certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching*
4 *Standards, one school district administrator whose duties relate*
5 *to the assessment of high school pupils for meeting graduation*
6 *requirements and who has expertise in curriculum and*
7 *assessment, one representative from the department, and one*
8 *representative of a vocational, community, or business*
9 *organization that is concerned with high school pupils attaining*
10 *minimum academic and workplace skills upon graduation.*

11 *(B) Three members by the Senate Committee on Rules. The*
12 *three members shall include one parent or guardian of a high*
13 *school pupil, one representative of a postsecondary institution*
14 *that offers teacher preparation programs, and one school district*
15 *administrator whose duties relate to the assessment of high*
16 *school pupils for meeting graduation requirements and who has*
17 *expertise in curriculum and assessment.*

18 *(C) Three members by the Speaker of the Assembly. The three*
19 *members shall include one parent or guardian of a high school*
20 *pupil, one representative of a postsecondary institution that*
21 *offers teacher preparation programs, and one school district*
22 *administrator whose duties relate to the assessment of high*
23 *school pupils for meeting graduation requirements and who has*
24 *expertise in curriculum and assessment.*

25 *(D) One member by the Legislative Analyst. The member shall*
26 *be a fully credentialed teacher who teaches academic content*
27 *standards and who has been certified by the National Board for*
28 *Professional Teaching Standards.*

29 *(2) The panel shall do all of the following:*

30 *(A) Hold meetings open to the public.*

31 *(B) Assist the department in performing the duties described in*
32 *subdivisions (e) and (f).*

33 *(C) Monitor and study the impact of the implementation by*
34 *each school district of its assessment plan to determine whether*
35 *it has a negative impact on any specific group of pupils.*

36 ~~60856.1. On or before February __, 2006, the State Board of~~
37 ~~Education shall review any criteria deemed appropriate pursuant~~

- 1 ~~to Section 60856 and shall make recommendations to the~~
- 2 ~~Legislature concerning that criteria.~~

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